

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia[[,]] or hyperlipidemia ~~or atherosclerosis~~ in a mammal, comprising:

orally administering to said mammal a composition comprising β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95 wt% β -casein A²,

wherein a serum level of any one or more of:

- a) cholesterol;
- b) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol relative to high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol;
- c) low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol;
- d) very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) cholesterol;
- e) apolipoprotein B; or
- f) triglycerides

after administration of the composition is lower than the serum level before administration of the composition.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is a food or food product.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 where the food or food product is milk or a product containing or processed from milk.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is a dietary supplement.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the dietary supplement is ingested for optimizing fitness, weight loss, weight gain, muscle building, and/or muscle repair.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is milk containing β -casein where the β -casein is comprised of at least 95 wt% β -casein A².

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9 where the β -casein is comprised solely of β -casein A².

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the β -casein A² is obtained from the milk of bovine cattle or from the milk of yaks, buffalo, sheep or goats.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is an aqueous solution, a suspension or an emulsion.

18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 where the composition is a solid in granular or powder form.

19-24. (canceled)